

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, AND 120, EACH MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-998) on the resolution (H. Res. 646) providing for consideration of certain joint resolutions making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-999) on the resolution (H. Res. 647) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 835, ESTUARIES AND CLEAN WATERS ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER (during the special order of Mr. BLUMENAUER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-1000) on the resolution (H. Res. 648) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 835) to encourage the restoration of estuary habitat through more efficient project financing and enhanced coordination of Federal and non-Federal restoration programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TOM EWING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor tonight to spend some time to think about a good friend and colleague who is also leaving, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING). I have been joined by a couple of my colleagues that because of the lateness of the hour I would like for them to have the opportunity to address the House and then I will pick up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from upstate Illinois (Mr. PORTER) whom we have heard a lot about tonight already.

Mr. PORTER. I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding to me. I am very pleased to be able to participate in this tribute to our colleague, TOM EWING. Mr. Speaker, I was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1972. TOM EWING was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1974. I had the privilege of serving with TOM for 4 years, 1974 to 1978 in the Illinois House of Representatives. He roomed with another Illinois representative elected in his class of 1974, Lee Daniels of Elmhurst, and I sat next to Lee Daniels. Now, I was a one-term member when Lee Daniels and TOM EWING arrived in the chamber and the first order of business because the Democrats had achieved in 1974 a very large majority in the Illinois House as a result of the Watergate problems and the first order of business was the election of a Speaker of the House. Two Democrats vied with one another, and Bill Redmond, who was from Lee Daniels' area, had not quite enough votes to be elected Speaker. The balloting went on for 14 days with 88 ballots being cast without a result, and no Speaker having been chosen, when Lee Daniels, a Republican, finally broke the tie, or broke the impasse and cast a Republican vote for his Democratic colleague, Bill Redmond, to become Speaker of the House, and that caused Bill Redmond's election. Now, I sat there pleading with Lee Daniels not to cast that vote. I assumed it would be the end of his political career. It is fascinating that Lee later became the Illinois House Republican leader and Speaker of the Illinois House and is today the minority leader of the Illinois House. But Lee Daniels was kind of the glue that brought TOM and I together. The three of us became very close friends, and others I might add became very close friends in the Illinois General Assembly, and I was very privileged to have the opportunity to serve with TOM for those 4 years.

In 1977, I felt that I was conducting two full-time jobs. I was practicing law, which seemed to take my full time, and I was also in the general assembly; and that seemed to take my full time. And so I said to myself, I am going to let my constituents decide whether they want me to become a lawyer or a legislator full time, and I am going to run for Congress. I took on the incumbent Democrat in my district and after one of the really truly classic elections I think fought on the issues, I lost that election by 650 votes out of 189,000 cast. My constituents decided they wanted me to be a lawyer. Actually, I then gave them another chance when my opponent immediately was

appointed to the Federal bench by President Carter, and I was elected in a special election and left the general assembly. I came here to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, frankly it was lonely here without Old Tom. I like to call him Old TOM because he and I are exactly the same age. Actually, I am 4 months older but I do not admit it. And for 11 years I waited for TOM to come to Washington, and he finally arrived in July of 1991 when he was elected in a special election. In the meantime, he served as one of the outstanding representatives in the Illinois General Assembly, heading the revenue committee, acting as assistant Republican leader under Lee Daniels from 1982 to 1990.

Finally, after all that time, TOM came and joined us here in Washington. He brought with him, Mr. Speaker, his great commitment to fiscal responsibility. He brought it here to Washington where it was really, really needed. And from the very first time when he arrived here in 1991, he worked to ensure that we attempted to balance the budget, to protect Social Security, to promote economic growth, and he has during his time in Washington been repeatedly recognized for his commitment to balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility by the Citizens Against Government Waste, by the Watchdogs of the Treasury, by Americans for Tax Reform, by the American Taxpayers Union, by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Over and over again, all of the organizations who watch this very closely have recognized TOM's commitment to fiscal responsibility, and he has been one of the great leaders here in bringing that about. Today, we enjoy balanced budgets because of legislators like TOM EWING. He brought, of course, his friendship with our Speaker, DENNIS HASTERT, with him. Both served in the Illinois General Assembly together as well. And he brought with him a commitment to agriculture so important to central Illinois and to his district, to health care and to education, and he has received award after award for his work in each of those three areas.

Mr. Speaker, he also has brought a commitment to transportation. He has served on the transportation committee. One of the things that brings us together as we work as an Illinois delegation is our commitment to the use of ethanol in American automobile fuels. And TOM has been a great leader in respect to bringing agriculture and transportation together in respect to ethanol. He has also, and this has been the area of his greatest expertise, he has served the entire time as a member of the agriculture committee. He is chairman of the Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops of the Committee on Agriculture, and as you may know, Mr.